

Reply

As the oldest among those invited, allow me to speak a few words on their behalf.

You, members of the Military Observation Commission from CHINA, notwithstanding the fact that you are so busy with so many things to do in your schedule, have had the kindness of holding such a grand banquet for us and you have just now given us cordial greetings, for which we are thankful from the depth of our heart. As you are well aware, since the outbreak of the Greater East Asiatic War we have been making steady progress both in strategic operations and in construction work, thanks to the valor and efforts of the Imperial Army and Navy, under the august Virtue of His Majesty. Consequently, all the races in East ASIA, liberated from the shackles of British, American, Dutch and others' domination and restored to their original status are, in their ecstasy, trying to strengthen the solidarity with one another for the establishment of a Co-Prosperity Sphere. Especially, the relation between JAPAN and CHINA has become much closer since your participation in the War, and I am very happy to be able to say that we are making strenuous efforts for the successful prosecution of the War, with the spirit of "Sharing the Fate with each other".

At this time, you, leading officers of the National Army of CHINA have come to observe in full detail the state of military and other affairs in this country, which is exerting herself for the prosecution execution of the war, I firmly believe your visit is quite timely and opportune.

I have heard that since your arrival in the Metropolis, you have visited several military schools, munition factories, and so on. I am sure you have realized how the whole nation high and low united in one body and fully confident of their ultimate victory, are devoting their power and energy to the thorough prosecution of the present war.

I cannot but hope that as you continue your inspection trip and visit several more places, you will successfully attain the object of this trip. For the establishment of truly ideal Great East ASIA there will be many obstacles

to be overcome, and therefore, it goes without saying that a strong solidarity between the Japanese and the Chinese forces is absolutely necessary. I shall be happy indeed if this trip should prove to be of some help for the reconstruction of your army in the revived CHINA.

I thank you very much for your kind invitation this evening, and allow me to raise the cup to drink to the prosperity of your esteemed army and at the same time to the health of your Excellencies and gentlemen.

By DOIHARA, Kenji, General
on behalf of the invited

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